

REMARKS

Applicant is filing this response to include a complete listing of the claims present in the application. In the amendment filed July 22, 2005, Applicant did not indicate the status of claims 53-113 which had been cancelled in the amendment filed October 22, 2004. In this amendment (and the Non-Compliant Amendment filed July 22, 2005), Applicant has amended claims 1 and 50. Also, claims 49 and 52 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-48 and 50-51 are now pending for examination, with claim 1 being independent.

Applicant repeats below the remarks made in the Non-Compliant Amendment filed on July 22, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the indication in the Office Action that claims 49-51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 49, which depends solely from claim 1, thereby placing this claim in condition for allowance. All of the remaining claims in the application depend from independent claim 1 which should be in condition for allowance as noted above.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, and 23-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, and 23-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 4004220 (Koch).

Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation of dependent claim 49 which does not stand rejected on this ground. Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claim 1 is patentable in view of Koch. The remaining claims that stand rejected on this ground all depend from claim 1 and, thus, are also patentable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of rejections on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10-22, 32-42, and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10-22, 32-42, and 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 4004220 (Koch) in view of GB2278010 (Natsuko).

As noted above, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation of dependent claim 49 thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. The claims that stand rejected on this ground depend from 1 and, thus, are also patentable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections on this ground.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: August 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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